

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

239-699-4754

[ChelleTrav@aol.com](mailto:ChelleTrav@aol.com)

Caption: Christina Scroggin

### **Refuge welcomes new education intern**

Education intern Christina Scroggin recently arrived to help the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island with staffing shortages this season, thanks to funding from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS).

Scroggin graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers last fall with a major in psychology and minor in interdisciplinary studies. The Miami, Fla., native previously worked as an intern for St. Matthew’s House in Naples with the development department.

Growing up with Kip Koss, “Ding” Darling’s grandson, as a good family friend, Scroggin has long known about the refuge. Recently, she says, her interests have taken her away from her college studies and more into the environmental fields.

At “Ding” Darling, she will be helping Sara Hallas, the refuge's environmental educator, with program development and delivery to local students and visitors.

“I like that I have only been here for a few days and feel as though I am already surrounded by family,” said Scroggin, who actually is the sister of part-time refuge ranger Monica Scroggin.

“Everyone here is so friendly and so excited to help me with whatever I may need. I’ve been helping out with the Junior Duck Stamp presentations and am so excited to see all of the entrees this year.”

DDWS provides living stipends and other benefits for about a dozen interns each year. The refuge supports interns and resident volunteers with free housing.

“Our interns bring youthful energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to the refuge team,” said supervisory refuge ranger Toni Westland. “At the same time, the program gives students and recent graduates an opportunity to learn hands-on about the environment and refuge operations.”

For more information about the refuge’s internship programs, contact Westland at 239-472-1100 ext. 237. To learn about supporting the refuge intern program, contact Sarah Lathrop, DDWS associate director, at 239-472-1100 ext. 4.

#### ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](http://dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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